

Vacancy Announcement #DPO-00-019 CRJ

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Chemist, PD-1320, Band 3
(Band 3 equivalent to GS-13/14, salary range \$60,114 to \$94,658 Per Annum, Includes Locality Payment for Washington Metropolitan Area)

LOCATION: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Office of Science and Information Technology
Forensic Science Laboratory – Washington, DC
Arson and Explosives Section
Rockville, MD

NOTE: This position is covered by a Title 5 exemption authority, a special authority approved for the Department of the Treasury by the United States Congress for a Demonstration Project to provide increased flexibilities in hiring and paying employees, including a broad banded system and pay for performance.

Security Clearance Required

More than one position may be filled from this announcement.

OPENING DATE: September 7, 2000 **CLOSING DATE:** OPEN UNTIL FILLED
(First cut-off: October 9, 2000)

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: All sources and Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been Separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service may apply. Competitive examining authority has been delegated to the ATF by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Non-status applications will be forwarded to the Delegated Examining Unit or the Pay Demonstration Project Office for rating, ranking and referral. Career or Career Conditional candidates who wish to be rated under both merit promotion and competitive procedures must submit two complete applications. If only one application is received it will be considered under merit promotion.

MAJOR DUTIES: This position is located in the Forensic Science Laboratory within the Office of Science and Technology. The incumbent serves as a technical authority in the analysis of forensic evidence from criminal investigations of bombings and/or arsons. The chemist serves as a subject area expert in one or more specialized areas such as the identification of explosive residue, fire debris, or trace evidence (i.e., fibers, hair soil, glass, etc.), and maintains a broad based knowledge of all areas of forensic science.

- Functions as a final authority in a specialty area, providing expert advice and assistance to ATF officials, other Federal agencies, state and local government organizations, private laboratories and industry on forensic evidence, analytical methodology and instrumentation.
- Performs the most difficult forensic examinations without technical guidance, using scientifically sound and applicable procedures.
- Trains, coaches and guides other chemists and technicians in their technical duties and evaluates the

analytical work of peers and lower graded chemists or technicians.

- Provides court testimony on the basis of laboratory examinations. Advises prosecutors on the appropriate approach to use in presenting scientific testimony. Assists the prosecutor in the preparation of questions.
- Advises and assists special agents at crime scenes where special expertise will help the investigation. Sets priorities and guidelines for the collection, preservation, and transmittal of scientific evidence.
- Conducts training related to specialty areas. Designs curriculum, prepares lesson plans, instructs, and evaluates students.
- Represents the laboratory on scientific issues in regional meetings, negotiations with government officials, members of industry, ranking law enforcement officials, and professional organizations/associations.
- Prepares laboratory reports and documents that are suitable for external analysis and which may be accepted for publication in professional journals and scientific publications.
- Initiates and leads the development of new or modified analytical procedures to improve the methods used in forensic evidence analysis.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must meet all qualifications, including band requirements, **within 30 days of the closing date of this announcement.** Applicants must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade/band in the Federal service.

Specialized Experience is experience, which is directly related to the duties of the position to be filled, and which has equipped the candidate with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position.

Basic Qualifications

A. Candidates must have completed a full 4-year course of study in physical sciences, life sciences or Engineering that included 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by course work in mathematics through differential and integral calculus and at least 6 semester hours of physics.

Or

B. Combination of education and experience course work equivalent to a major as shown in A above, including at least 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

EVALUATION METHODS: Status applicants will be evaluated and given points on relevant experience; formal college level education; training and self-development within the past five years; and, the Supplemental Experience Statement. Non-status applicants will be evaluated on relevant experience and the Supplemental Experience Statement. The following factors in the Supplemental Experience Statement will be used as the basis for determining the best-qualified applicants.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCE STATEMENT

On separate sheets of paper, describe your work experience, training and/or awards, volunteer experience or hobbies as they relate to each of the items listed below. Provide detailed evidence of each of the factors and show how and when they were used. Include clear, concise examples that show level of accomplishments and degree of responsibility. Include where and when you acquired the knowledge and abilities.

1. Skill in analyzing complex or unprecedented samples, through the use of a wide variety of sophisticated

laboratory instrumentation such as Gas Chromatography (GC), Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), GC/TEA, EGIS, FTIR, HPLC, Ion Chromatography, CE, Polarized Light Microscopy, Microspectrophotometry, Scanning Electron Microscopy, XRF, XRD, and GRIM II.

2. Skill in identifying unknown materials and comparing questioned and known samples to determine common origin; interpreting and evaluating the result of chemical/physical/instrumental examinations for validity, scientific significance and evidentiary value, in order to be able to render an expert opinion. (This KSA demonstrated the applicants' ability to apply forensic principles and chemistry skills to the examination of physical evidence/materials.)
3. Skills to process major crime scenes by collecting, preserving, and packaging evidentiary materials; or to oversee, supervise and advise others concerning this process.
4. Ability to make authoritative verbal presentations to peer groups, professional organizations and give clear/convincing testimony in courts of law about explosives and trace evidence examinations and provide sound technical assistance in their specialty area, both within the Bureau and external to the Bureau. (This KSA demonstrates the applicant's verbal skills and ability to testify under the most adverse conditions and successfully communicate highly technical information.
5. Skill in preparing well-written laboratory reports, operational and technical documents concerning forensic chemistry methods that are suitable for publication in professional journals. (This KSA demonstrates the ability to assemble, analyze, and interpret scientific data, which is essential to the proper use of scientific techniques in the examination of casework and to clearly communicate complex technical findings to peers and lay readers.)
6. Skill in conducting and directing research and methods development projects related to forensic examinations. (This KSA demonstrates the applicant's initiative, skills and ability to carry out research and methods development.)
7. Ability to maintain positive relationships by representing the Laboratory to peer groups, national/international professional organizations, high ranking government officials and industry representatives as well as mentoring/guiding lower graded chemists to develop professional skills.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The following statements are applicable if checked:

- ☐ A pre-employment background investigation is required.
- ☐ Incumbent must be a U.S. citizen.
- ☐ Male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service System.
- ☐ Non-ATF applicants will not be reimbursed for travel and relocation expenses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Applications will not be returned to applicants.
2. Applications must be postmarked by the closing date of this announcement.

HOW TO APPLY:

- A. Candidates may submit a resume; SF-171, Application for Federal Employment; or OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment. The OF-612 may be obtained by contacting us at the address and telephone number below. F-171 is no longer available for distribution.

Your application **must** contain the following information:

1. Title series, band and vacancy announcement of the vacancy for which you wish to be considered.
2. Full name, social security number and mailing address.
3. Daytime and evening telephone numbers.
4. For experience most relevant to this position, include name of employer, dates of employment, job title, grade (if applicable), start and end dates and a description of duties and responsibilities.
5. Average hours worked for each position if other than 40 hours per week.
6. Name, location and date of high school and college attended.
7. Type of degree, if any, date received, major/minor field of study.
8. Relevant training: course titles, dates, number of hours and institutions.
9. Description and year of awards, honors, and special qualifications such as language, computer skills, typing speed.
10. Clear identification of U.S. citizenship.

B. Additional information/completed forms should be submitted, if checked:

- ☒ Written response to the Supplemental Experience Statement.
- ☒ DD-214, if claiming 5 point preference. (For non-status consideration only.)
- ☒ Both DD 214 and SF-15, if claiming 10 point preference. (For non-status consideration only.)
- ☒ College transcripts listing all college courses.
- ☒ Race /National Origin Identification (SF-181). Information submitted will be used for statistical reports only.
- ☒ OPM Form 306, Declaration for Federal Employment.
- ☒ Performance appraisal, dated within the last year. If not submitted, credit will **not** be given for that portion of the evaluation process. (For status consideration only.)
- ☒ Current/former Federal employees - SF-50 reflecting competitive status.
- ☒ Applicants with disability or veterans eligible for non-competitive appointment; provide appropriate documentation.
- ☐ Current Notice of Results.
- ☐ Self-certification for typing proficiency.
- ☒ Self-initiated training and self-development taken within past five years (courses, training sessions or seminars that are three or more days in length.) Provide month/year of class, title and length of class.

C. Please include a statement indicating how you found out about this vacancy. (Example: I found about this vacancy through the OPM Website, job fair, trade publication, etc.) If another website, please specify.

NOTE: DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY SURPLUS OR DISPLACED EMPLOYEES REQUESTING SPECIAL SELECTION PRIORITY CONSIDERATION: If you are currently a career or career-conditional Treasury employee who has received a Reduction in Force (RIF) separation notice or a Certificate of Expected Separation (CES) you may be entitled to special priority selection under Treasury's Career Transition Assistance Program (T-CTAP). You must:

1. Still be employed by the Treasury Department, and the date of the notice has not expired.
2. Submit a copy of the RIF or CES separation notice along with your application.

3. Apply for a position that is at or below the grade level of the position from which you are being separated. The position must not have greater promotion potential than the position from which you are being separated.
4. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent.
5. Currently be employed by Treasury in the same commuting area as the position for which you are requesting priority consideration.
6. File your application by the vacancy announcement closing date and meet all application criteria (e.g., submit all required documentation.)
7. Be rated well qualified for the position. To be well qualified, you must meet the mid-level range of the crediting plan for all factors.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Position Management Branch, Room 4350
Attention: Cheryl Jenkins
650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20226
(202) 927-8630
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): (202) 927-7941

TO FIND OUT ABOUT OTHER JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, CALL (202) 927-8423.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ALL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGION, OR ANY OTHER NONMERIT REASON.